

REMARKS

Claims 7-13 remain pending in the present application. Claims 9-12 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 7, 8 and 13 stand rejected. Claims 7 and 13 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to be anticipated by the Miyazaki et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,280,096).

Claim 7 has been amended. Claim 7 further defines the chamfered to be on a radially outermost circumferential surface of a back side of the inner ring. The surface is recut to provide the chamfered surface to reduce stress concentrations due to gouges on the chamfered surface. Also, it prevents the generation of cracks from the starting point of the gouge.

The Miyazaki et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to illustrate Applicants' claim. The Examiner alleges that the chamfered outer circumferential surface is designated with the reference number 26. Reference numeral 26 identifies a curved portion of the ring. This portion is on the radially innermost circumferential surface at the corner of the inner ring. It is not on the radially outermost circumferential surface of the back side the inner ring as claimed. Additionally, the surface 26 is not recut as alleged by the Examiner. As can be seen in Applicants' Figure 3, the radially outermost circumferential surface of the back side of the inner ring is recut. The reference cited by the Examiner fails to illustrate such a feature. Additionally, nowhere does the reference

illustrate that the chamfered surface reduces stress concentration due to gouges on the chamfered surface. Also, the reference does not illustrate the prevention of the generation of cracks starting from the point of the gouge. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 7 to be patentably distinct over the Miyazaki et al. reference. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 8 that depends from Claim 7 to be patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner.

Independent Claim 13 has been amended to be patterned after Claim 7. Accordingly, the above remarks with respect to Claim 7 equally apply to Claim 13. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 13 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sera (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0051597). The Examiner alleges that Sera illustrates Applicants' claim.

As mentioned above, Claim 7 has been amended to define that the chamfered surface on a radially outermost circumferential surface of the back side of the inner ring is recut. It provides the chamfered surface to reduce stress concentrations due to the gouge on the chamfered surface. Also, it prevents the generation of cracks from the starting point of the gouge.

Sera, at best, illustrates the radially innermost portion 43 being curved on the inner ring. Nowhere does Sera illustrate the radially outermost circumferential surface on the back side of the inner ring being recut as claimed by Applicants. Further, Sera does not illustrate the chamfered surface reducing stress concentration due to gouges on the chamfered surface. Additionally, it fails to illustrate the prevention of the

generation of cracks as claimed. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 7 to be patentably distinct over the Sera reference. Likewise, Claim 8 which depends from Claim 7 would be patentably distinct.

Claim 13 has been amended to be patterned after Claim 7. Accordingly, the above remarks with respect to Claim 7 equally apply to Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 13 to be patentably distinct over the Sera reference.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Miyazaki et al. reference further in view of Nonaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,840,722). As mentioned above, the Miyazaki et al. reference fails to illustrate Applicants' claims. The addition of Nonaka fails to overcome the deficiencies of Miyazaki et al. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 7, 8 and 13 to be patentably distinct over the Examiner's combination.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sera in view of Nonaka.

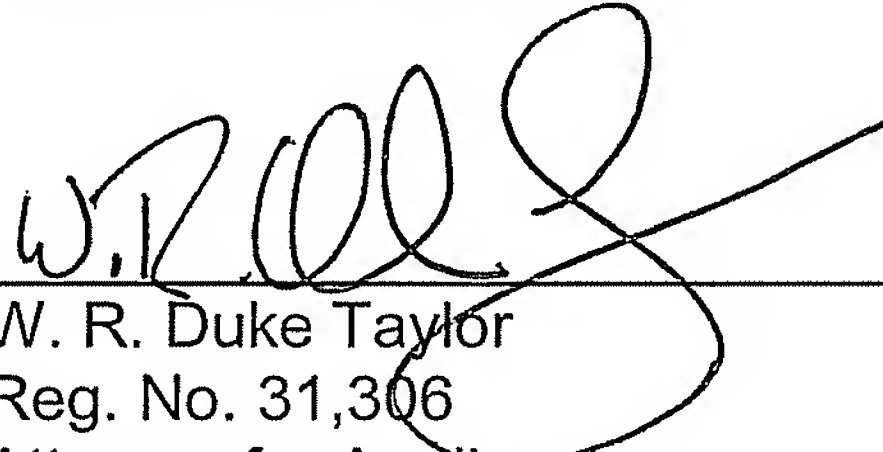
As mentioned above, the Sera reference fails to illustrate Applicants' claims. The addition of Nonaka fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sera. Accordingly, Applicants believe Claims 7 and 13 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the

Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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